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PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

After almost a year in office during which I have had access on a daily basis to the intelligence produced by the CIA, I am glad to be able to state that I have been very pleasantly surprised and impressed by the quality, objectivity, and depth of the CIA's analysis and reporting on events abroad. I have a much surer sense of making right decisions about our own national security because of my growing trust in the capability of the CIA and the other intelligence agencies. In an increasingly complex and dangerous world, we are going to have to rely more heavily in the future on the CIA for prompt and accurate information, insights and analysis on events abroad. I am satisfied that effective oversight of the Agency is being exercised both within the Executive Branch and by the Congress. It is time to lighten the burden on CIA of retrospective criticism and repetitious publicity concerning events that are now well behind us. I can assure the American people that they are being well served by the loyal and competent men and women who work for the CIA. Some reductions in force have had to be made, forcing people with distinguished careers to go. Such readjustments, though difficult and painful, are sometimes necessary to meet the changing requirements of a government agency. But it is crucial that we maintain a strong intelligence capability, and I know that Admiral Turner shares this conviction. I look forward with confidence to working with a CIA under Admiral Turner's direction that is capable of not only continuing but improving on its current excellent performance. He and they have my support and that of the vast majority of the American people.